

# **Assessment of Post-Adoption Resources in Tooele County 2007**

## **INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- Adoption Exchange has a toll free number and website for information and resources about post-adoption information and services throughout the state of Utah. The information gathered during the assessment of post-adoption resources for each region of Utah will be available on the Adoption Exchange website. They can be reached at 1-866-872-7212 or [www.utdcfsadopt.org/](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org/).
- Adoption Connection Newsletter is sent to all DCFS adoptive families receiving subsidy. The newsletter is designed to have current Utah-specific information regarding resources and adoption issues.
- Utah Cares at [www.utahcares.utah.gov](http://www.utahcares.utah.gov) has many human service resources throughout Utah. To contact them by telephone call 211.

## **SUPPORT GROUPS**

### **Cluster Groups**

- An adoption cluster group as well as the Tooele Cluster Group is facilitated by Debbie in Tooele County. She can be contacted at 801-843-8610.

### **Specialized Groups**

- Valley Mental Health in Tooele has a Parent Training Group that is open to any parents in Tooele County. Contact Valley Mental Health at 801-843-3520.
- Allies for Families is a telephone support line regarding mental health issues. They can be reached at 1-800-468-1160.

### **Children's Support Groups**

- Families with Promise links children with mentors and foster grandparents. They also have monthly family activities. Families with Promise is a non-profit organization operated by Scott Cambell in Tooele County

**GAP:** There are no support groups at this time that are geared towards adopted children.

### **Chat Rooms**

- Adoption Exchange has links to nationally based chat rooms for adoptive parents at [www.utdcfsadopt.org/](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org/).

### **Culture Groups**

- Hispanic cultural activities are available at St. Margaret's church in Tooele. Hispanic cultural events are open to the public.
- Families for African American Awareness meet several times a year. The contact person is Stacy Farmer at 801-299-0673.
- India support group is comprised of parents who have adopted children from India. They meet for potluck dinners or picnics several times a year. Contact Joan Auger at 801-547-0852.
- Korean Culture Camp has an organized camp once a year for children adopted from Korea. Families meet another time for a potluck dinner. Contact Eunyong Christensen at 435-615-7665.
- Russian Adoption Support meets quarterly for educational classes and family activities. Contact them at 801-222-8897.
- South American Culture Group meets twice a year for family activities. Contact Keith or Kathy Syndergaard at 801-756-5656.
- Families for Children from China meet several times a year. Contact Karrie Miner at 801-484-4668.
- Taiwan Culture Group meets for different activities. Contact Laura Trinnaman at 801-772-0819.
- Guatemalan Culture Group has a summer picnic and other activities. Contact Judy Sorenson at 801-

254-4011.

- Marshall Islands (RMI Adoption Support Group) has a summer picnic planned. Contact Jennifer Gunnell at 801-282-0737 for more information.
- A cultural group entitled Cause Extend is now available. Contact Chris Ivins at 801-376-8951.

## **RESPITE CARE**

### **1 - 4 Hour Scheduled Respite**

- Common activities such as scouts, sports, and church activities can provide regular breaks for parents while their children are involved in the programs.
- Families with Promise links youth with mentors and foster grandparents who could do things together.
- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most adoptive parents in Tooele County.
- Cluster group members could exchange respite care for each other. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.)
- Many parents throughout the state use child care to give them regular respite from the demands of raising their children. The Metro Region Child Care Resource and Referral program at 1-866-GET-HUGS (438-4847) has a computerized database of all the licensed child care in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. There are child care providers who provide child care after school, on a drop-in basis, and provide summer programs. Some of these programs accommodate children up to ages 12 or 13. A parent can arrange daily after school or summer programs or can arrange 1 - 4 days a week. Some providers have structured programs with low adult to child ratios and many have special training to help them with the difficult to manage children. Summer programs are posted on their website at [www.cssutah.org/ccr&r](http://www.cssutah.org/ccr&r). Costs vary: full-time costs range from about \$100 - \$650 per month; part-time would be less.
- A list of many local groups, activities, summer camps, as well as child care resources may be obtained through the Metro Region Child Care Resource and Referral service at 1-866-GET-HUGS (438-4847).
- The Family Support Centers in Salt Lake or Orem can provide scheduled respite care for children ranging in age from infants through 11 years old. They will try to accommodate the family's requests depending on available space and needs of the parents. As space allows, they can take all children in the family who are infants through 11 years old. Salt Lake Family Support Center can be reached at 801-487-7778, Midvale at 801-255-6881, or Orem at 801-229-1181.

### **Day Breaks**

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most adoptive parents in Tooele County.
- Cluster group members could exchange respite care for each other. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.)
- Many parents throughout the state use child care to give them regular respite from the demands of raising their children. The Metro Region Child Care Resource and Referral program at 1-866-GET-HUGS (438-4847) has a computerized database of all the licensed child care in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. There are child care providers who provide child care on a drop-in basis, and provide summer programs. Some of these programs accommodate children up to ages 12 or 13. A parent can arrange for full-time summer programs or can arrange 1 - 4 days a week. Some providers have structured programs with low adult to child ratios and many have special training to help them with the difficult to manage children. Summer programs are posted on their website at [www.cssutah.org/ccr&r](http://www.cssutah.org/ccr&r). Costs vary: full-time costs range from about \$100 - \$650 per month; part-time would be less.
- A list of many local groups, activities, summer camps, as well as child care resources may be obtained through the Metro Region Child Care Resource and Referral service at 1-866-GET-HUGS (438-4847).

- The Family Support Center in Salt Lake or Orem can provide scheduled respite care for children ranging in age from infants through 11 years old. They will try to accommodate the family's requests depending on available space and needs of the parents. As space allows, they can take all children in the family who are infants through 11 years old. Salt Lake Family Support Center can be reached at 801-487-7778, Midvale at 801-255-6881, or Orem at 801-229-1181.

#### **Overnight Breaks - Weekend Breaks**

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most adoptive parents in Tooele County.
- Cluster group members could exchange respite care for each other. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.)
- DCFS office in Tooele can help arrange for structured respite care ranging in time from hours to a weekend. Respite care services are based on available funding. Call Caren Atkinson at 801-833-7350.
- The Family Support Center in Salt Lake or Orem can provide scheduled respite care for children ranging in age from infants through 11 years old. They can take a child from 1 - 72 hours and will try to accommodate the family's requests depending on available space and needs of the parents. As space allows, they can take all children in the family who are infants through 11 years old. Salt Lake Family Support Center can be reached at 801-487-7778, Midvale at 801-255-6881, or Orem at 801-229-1181.

#### **Parent - to - Parent**

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most adoptive parents in Tooele County.
- Cluster group members could exchange respite care for each other. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.)

#### **Immediate Crisis Respite**

- Family Support Centers were established to provide immediate crisis respite care for up to 72 hours for children ranging in age from infancy through 11 years old. Salt Lake Family Support Center can be reached at 801-487-7778, Midvale at 801-255-6881, or Orem at 801-229-1181.
- Salt Lake County Youth Center in Salt Lake can provide immediate crisis respite for youth 8 - 18 years old. The services can provide crisis respite care over night or longer in some cases. Call 801-269-7500.

### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **Counselors who Specialize in Adoption**

- Valley Mental Health, the Medicaid provider in Tooele County, has a counselor, Sarah DeBois, who is experienced in and has received specialized training in adoption related issues. When working with adoptive families, Sarah refers to the local cluster group. Contact Valley Mental Health in Tooele at 801-843-3520.
- Touchstone Therapy Center - a carve-out Medicaid provider - is operated by Ray DePrizio who has specialized in adoption issues. Contact Ray DePrizio at 801-485-8051
- DCFS Post-Adoption unit in Salt Lake City works exclusively with adoption related family issues in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. Contact the Post-Adoption Unit at 801-264-7609.

**Note:** Both Valley Mental Health's counselor, Sarah DeBois, and the DCFS post adoption workers would be willing to coordinate services with an adoptive parent peer-mentor in working for a Response Team Model.

#### **Family Focused Treatment**

- Valley Mental Health, the Medicaid provider in Tooele, has a family focused approach and can provide whole family therapy. Contact Valley Mental Health in Tooele at 801-843-3520.
- Touchstone Therapy Center - a carve-out Medicaid provider - practices whole family focused work and often meets in the family's home.
- DCFS Post-Adoption unit in Salt Lake City works exclusively with adoption related family issues in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. They can provide short-term family counseling, advocacy, or referrals for any adoptive family who adopted through DCFS. Contact the Post-Adoption Unit at 801-264-7609.
- Millcreek Child and Family Services has worked extensively with foster and adoptive children. They are located at 50 North Main Street, Tooele, UT 84074. Chris C. Hakes works with younger children and can be reached at 801-414-3252, and Jaraed Froerer works with young and older teens and can be contacted at 801-501-8444.

### **Home-Based**

- Touchstone Therapy Center - a carve-out Medicaid provider - often conducts therapy home-based, and practice whole family focused work.
- Utah Youth Village in Salt Lake County has a home-based program called Families First, for families in which a child is in danger of being removed from the home. Call 801-272-9980.
- DCFS Post-Adoption unit in Salt Lake City can provide short-term home-based family counseling, advocacy, or referrals for any adoptive family who adopted through DCFS. They also can provide the home-based, multi-weekly, Family Preservation focus for those who are considering disrupting or dissolving their adoption. Contact the Post Adoption Unit at 801-264-7609.

### **Respond Within 24 Hours to Crisis**

- Valley Mental Health - the Medicaid provider - has a 24-hour crisis line for families and the crisis worker can try to reach a therapist if the family is involved with a Valley Mental Health therapist. There is also an on-call children's assessment worker after 5:00 pm for hospitalization. Police are required to transport to the hospital and the youth must be handcuffed for their safety.
- DCFS Post-Adoption unit can respond within 24 hours on weekdays; however, they do not have an on-call worker assigned to the weekends at this time. If a Family Preservation worker is working with a family they could be reached through DCFS 24-hour Protective Service number.

### **Family Preservation**

- Touchstone Therapy Center - a carve-out Medicaid provider - can meet with families in an intense, multi-weekly basis in the family's home when a family is in crisis. This is in the style of the Family Preservation model.
- DCFS Post-Adoption unit in Salt Lake City works exclusively with adoption related family issues in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. They can provide intensive home-based, multi-weekly Family Preservation focus for those who are considering disrupting or dissolving their adoption. Contact the Post-Adoption Unit at 801-264-7609.

### **After School and School Treatment Programs**

- Valley Mental Health in Tooele has several after school programs. TALK, The Anger Little Kids, is a group for pre-school and school aged children. Decent Dudes, is a social skills program for children 3 - 12 years old. Survivors Groups is for grade school girls who have been sexually abused, and the Progression group is for teenage girls. Anger Management for adolescent males and runs for 14 weeks. Skills Development for older youth who have developmental delays or are mentally retarded. Contact Valley Mental Health in Tooele at 801-843-3520.
- Touchstone Therapy Center is offering a Summer Camp for adopted youth. It is 3 days a week and runs for 8 weeks.

### **Residential Treatment**

- Valley Mental Health has a day treatment program for school aged children who cannot function in the school classroom. The closest bus pick-up point for those who live in Tooele is Magna.
- Valley Mental Health has an on-call children's assessment worker for hospitalization. If Valley Mental

Health's children's assessment worker finds a child in need of a residential program funded through Medicaid, they would refer the child to University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute (UNI) or Adolescent Residential Treatment and Education Center (ARTEC). Police are required to transport the youth and the youth must be handcuffed for their safety.

- If a child is a threat to self or others they may be admitted to a psychiatric ward of a hospital until he or she is considered stabilized.
- There are residential treatment programs for private payment in surrounding counties. Residential treatment programs are almost all privately funded. Medicaid carve-out may be applied to qualifying private treatment programs for adopted youth.